Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An articulation segment of a catheter for selectively bending the catheter in a ~~plurality of planes~~ preferential bending plane, the articulation segment comprising: a hollow tube having a wall and defining a longitudinal axis, the tube being formed with first slit portions and second slit portions through the wall, with each first and second slit portion lying in a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis and extending azimuthally in an arc partway around the axis for an arc length greater than one hundred and eighty degrees; with the tube including first non-slit portions and second non-slit portions, with each first non-slit portion being coplanar with and bounded by a respective first slit portion; ~~the tube being further formed with second slit portions through the wall, with each second slit portion lying in a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis and extending azimuthally in an arc partway around the axis for an arc length greater than one hundred and eighty degrees; with the tube including second non-slit portions,~~ with each second non-slit portion being coplanar with and bounded by a respective second slit portion; wherein the first slit portions are axially and azimuthally offset from the second slit portions; wherein the first non-slit portions are aligned along the axis to form a first axially-extending wall portion interrupted only by the second slit portions; [[and]] wherein the second non-slit portions are aligned along

the axis to form a second axially-extending wall portion interrupted only by the first slit portions, and wherein said first axially-extending wall portion and said second axially-extending wall portion define a plane perpendicular to the preferential bending plane to ~~allow for the selective~~ bias bending of the catheter to the preferential bending plane.

2. (Previously Presented) An articulation segment as recited in claim 1 wherein the first slit portions and the second slit portions alternate axially along the tube.

3. (Previously Presented) An articulation segment as recited in claim 1 wherein each first slit portion has a first end and a second end that bound the respective first non-slit portion; and wherein each second slit portion has a first end and a second end that bound the respective non-slit portion.

4. (Previously Presented) An articulation segment as recited in claim 3 with each first slit portion and each second slit portion having a substantially same arc length.

5. (Previously Presented) An articulation segment as recited in claim 4 wherein the respective ends of the first slit portions and the second slit portions overlap through an arc distance of approximately ten degrees.

Claims 6 and 7 (Canceled)

8. (Original) An articulation segment as recited in claim 2 wherein each slit has a width in a range of approximately ten to five hundred microns.

9. (Original) An articulation segment as recited in claim 1 wherein the tube is a hypotube made of stainless steel.

Claims 10-20 (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An articulation segment as recited in claim 1 wherein the first axially-extending wall portion is offset from the second axially-extending wall portion by approximately 180 degrees ~~to define a plurality of radial planes that pass through the longitudinal axis and the first and second axially-extending wall portions, and to bias the catheter to bend in the radial planes~~.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) An articulation segment of a catheter for selectively bending the catheter in ~~two planes~~ a preferential bending plane, the articulation segment comprising:

a hollow tube having a wall and defining a longitudinal axis;

wherein the tube forms a plurality of alternating first slits and second slits, with each slit extending radially through the wall and azimuthally in an arc partway around the axis from a first end to a second end for an arc length greater than one hundred and eighty degrees, and with each slit lying in a plane substantially perpendicular to the axis;

wherein the first slits are aligned along the axis in a same azimuthal orientation relative to each other with the first ends and second ends of the first slits defining a first axially-extending wall portion interrupted only by the second slits;

wherein the second slits are aligned along the axis in a same azimuthal orientation relative to each other and azimuthally offset from the first slits, with the first ends and second ends of the second slits defining a second axially-extending wall portion interrupted only by the first slits; and

wherein the first axially-extending wall portion is offset from the second axially-extending wall portion by approximately 180 degrees to define a ~~plurality of radial planes that pass through the longitudinal axis and the first and second axially extending wall portions, and~~ plane perpendicular to the preferential bending plane to bias the catheter to bend in the ~~radial planes~~ preferential bending plane.

24. (Previously Presented) An articulation segment as recited in claim 23 wherein the first ends of the first slits overlap with the second ends of the second slits through an arc distance of approximately ten degrees.

25. (Previously Presented) An articulation segment as recited in claim 24 wherein the second ends of the first slits overlap with the first ends of the second slits through an arc distance of approximately ten degrees.

26. (Previously Presented) An articulation segment as recited in claim 23 wherein each slit has a substantially same arc length.

27. (Previously Presented) An articulation segment as recited in claim 26 wherein each slit has a width in a range of approximately ten to five hundred microns.

28. (Previously Presented) An articulation segment as recited in claim 23 wherein the tube is a hypotube made of stainless steel.

29. (New) An articulation segment as recited in claim 1 wherein the tube extends azimuthally for three hundred and sixty degrees, each slit portion extends azimuthally for an arc length of one hundred and ninety degrees, each slit portion overlaps the adjacent slit portion by ten degrees, and each non-slit portion extends azimuthally for an arc length of one hundred and seventy degrees.

30. (New) An articulation segment of a catheter for selectively bending the catheter in a preferential bending plane, the articulation segment comprising a hollow tube having a wall and defining a longitudinal axis; wherein the tube forms a plurality of alternating first slits and second slits lying in planes substantially perpendicular to the axis, wherein each slit extends radially through the wall and azimuthally in an arc partway around the axis from a first end to a second end for an arc length greater than one hundred and eighty degrees; wherein each slit has a center equidistant from the respective first end and second end, wherein the centers of the first slits form a first line parallel to the axis; wherein the centers of the second slits form a second line parallel to the axis; wherein the second line is offset from the first line by approximately 180 degrees; wherein the first line, longitudinal axis and second line define the preferential bending plane; wherein the first slits are aligned along the axis in a same azimuthal orientation relative to each other; wherein the first ends and second ends of the first slits define a first axially-extending wall portion interrupted only by the second slits; wherein the second slits are aligned along the axis in a same azimuthal orientation relative to each other and azimuthally offset from the first slits; wherein the first ends and second ends of the second slits define a second axially-extending wall portion interrupted only by the first slits; wherein the first axially-extending wall portion is offset from the second axially-extending wall portion by approximately 180 degrees to define a plane perpendicular to the preferential bending plane to bias the catheter to bend in the preferential bending plane.

31. (New) An articulation segment as recited in claim 30 wherein the first ends of the first slits overlap with the second ends of the second slits through an arc distance of approximately ten degrees.

32. (New) An articulation segment as recited in claim 31 wherein the second ends of the first slits overlap with the first ends of the second slits through an arc distance of approximately ten degrees.

33. (New) An articulation segment as recited in claim 32 wherein each slit has a substantially same arc length.

34. (New) An articulation segment as recited in claim 30 wherein each slit has a width in a range of approximately ten to five hundred microns.